

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: CGEN, FR
SUBJECT: CITIZENSHIP MEETING, PARIS, JANUARY 17

REF: STATE 4335

1. APPROXIMATELY 125 PERSONS ATTENDED CITIZENSHIP ACTION DAY PROGRAM IN PARIS JANUARY 17. ASSISTANT SECRETARY WATSON'S STATEMENT WAS READ BY DEPUTY CHIEF OF MISSION GAMMON. MANY IN AUDIENCE EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR DEPARTMENT SUPPORT OF H.R. 9637 WHICH THEY BELIEVE GREATLY IMPROVES CHANCES OF BILL'S PASSAGE. THERE IS CONSIDERABLY LESS AGREEMENT AMONG LOCAL AMERICANS ON PROPOSAL IN S.2341 TO REDUCE PHYSICAL PRESENCE REQUIREMENT FOR TRANSMITTING CITIZENSHIP. COPIES OF WATSON STATEMENT AND RODINO LETTER WERE MADE AVAILABLE AT MEETING.

2. MEETING PARTICIPANTS INCLUDED MRS. ANGELICA SCHNEIDER (OF SCHNEIDER VS. RUSK), MR. ANDREW SUNDBERG - PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN CHILDREN'S CITIZENSHIP RIGHTS LEAGUE, AND REPRESENTATIVES OF FEDERATION OF AMERICAN WOMEN'S CLUBS OVERSEAS (FAWCO), ASSOCIATION OF AMERICANS RESIDENT OVERSEAS (AARO) AND ASSOCIATION OF AMERICAN WIVES OF EUROPEANS (AAWE) - JOINT SPONSORS OF PROGRAM.

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3. MR. SUNDBERG EXPLAINED PROVISIONS OF H.R. 9637 AND S.2314 AND SUGGESTED EFFECTIVE ACTIONS WHICH COULD BE TAKEN BY OVERSEAS AMERICANS TO FAVOR THEIR ENACTMENT. AN INTENSIVE LETTER-WRITING CAMPAIGN IS PLANNED AND IF FUNDS ARE AVAILABLE, SPONSORING ORGANIZATIONS INTEND TO HAVE SEVERAL DUAL-NATIONAL YOUNG ADULTS TESTIFY AT CONGRESSIONAL HEARINGS.

4. THROUGH EFFECTIVE ORGANIZATION OF GROUPS ADVOCATING
CHANGE IN U.S. NATIONALITY LAWS, IT APPEARS THAT MOST
AMERICANS WILL BECOME AWARE OF PENDING LEGISLATION. IT
WOULD BE HELPFUL TO CONSULAR OFFICERS TO BE KEPT
INFORMED OF THE BILL'S PROGRESS AND OF POSITIONS TAKEN
BY THE DEPARTMENT RELATIVE TO ANY PROPOSED CITIZENSHIP
LEGISLATION.

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